

To: Mears, Mary[Mears.Mary@epa.gov]
Cc: Jimenez, Christopher[Jimenez.Christopher@epa.gov]; Mosher, Eric[Mosher.Eric@epa.gov]; Mugdan, Walter[Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]; DOnofrio, Cris[DOnofrio.Cris@epa.gov]; Daloia, James[daloia.james@epa.gov]; Torres, Ramon[Torres.Ramon@epa.gov]; Font, Jose[Font.Jose@epa.gov]
From: Garrison, Geoffrey
Sent: Tue 3/24/2015 6:43:34 PM
Subject: Re: St. John pesticide poisoning

Mary,

We did do air monitoring with MultiRAE pros, and pulled three Summas inside the upper unit of the J building, we just finished that entry. Our contractors are shipping the samples out today.

Cris, raj and I will be calling the RRC shortly and providing a full briefing on today and the plan for tomorrow.

Geoff

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2015, at 2:25 PM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Chris. I am cc:ing Elias, in case Judith asks for another news release.

Mary Mears

Acting Director Public Affairs and Chief Public Outreach Branch

U.S. EPA Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, the US VI and eight Indian Nations)

(212) 637-3673 (Direct Office)

(212) 637-3660 (General Office)

(646) 369-0077 (Cell)

From: Jimenez, Christopher
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 2:16 PM
To: Mosher, Eric; Mugdan, Walter; Mears, Mary
Cc: Garrison, Geoffrey; DOnofrio, Cris; Daloia, James; Torres, Ramon; Font, Jose
Subject: RE: St. John pesticide poisoning

We will be getting an update from the field shortly. We will report what type of monitoring and sampling was conducted today, and what is expected for tomorrow.

From: Mosher, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 1:12 PM
To: Mugdan, Walter; Mears, Mary
Cc: Garrison, Geoffrey; DOnofrio, Cris; Jimenez, Christopher; Daloia, James; Torres, Ramon; Font, Jose
Subject: RE: St. John pesticide poisoning

Walter and Mary,

The plan today was to do an entry in Level B and set up the air monitoring and air sampling on site. This morning they were setting up the equipment, getting air bottles filled, etc. We are about to get an update from Cris so we will be able to confirm your sampling questions soon.

Regards,

Eric

From: Mugdan, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Mears, Mary
Cc: Garrison, Geoffrey; DOnofrio, Cris; Jimenez, Christopher; Daloia, James; Mosher, Eric; Torres, Ramon; Font, Jose
Subject: RE: St. John pesticide poisoning

I don't know whether we are doing sampling today. I'm copying Geoff, Cris, Chris, Jim, Eric, Ramon and Jose to see if anyone knows the answer.

From: Mears, Mary
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 12:25 PM
To: Enck, Judith
Cc: R2 RRC; Rodriguez, Elias; Mugdan, Walter
Subject: RE: St. John pesticide poisoning

Thanks, Judith. Did he ask if we were sampling today, and, if so what did you say? My phone just died (hopefully will get fixed soon), so I haven't been able to talk to Walter.

Mary Mears

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From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 12:22 PM
To: Mears, Mary
Subject: Re: St. John pesticide poisoning

I called the newspaper reporter back. Re abc news that will just need to work off yesterday's news release. Tx.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2015, at 11:39 AM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Judith:

The Reporter at the **Delaware Journal** is about to call me asking for an update on 2 things:

Is EPA sampling in the unit/units today? (will get info from ERRD)

Do we have a criminal investigation going on? (We would NEVER confirm that).

Let me know if you plan to call him.

In addition, ABC news out of Delaware asking for a spokesperson. I think we say we don't have anyone, but they can use the information from our news release.

Mary Mears

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From: Braxton, Johnnie [<mailto:Johnnie.Braxton@abc.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:37 AM

To: Mears, Mary

Subject: St. John pesticide poisoning

Hi Ms. Mears,

Is there an EPA spokesperson in the Philadelphia/Delaware region who can talk on camera about this today?

Johnnie Braxton

WPVI-TV, 6ABC

Delaware Bureau

302-429-6666

EPA Responds to Incident that Leaves Four People Ill on St. John; EPA Working with U.S. Virgin Islands Government on Ongoing Investigation

Release Date: 03/23/2015

Contact Information: Mary Mears (212) 637-3673; mears.mary@epa.gov

(Monday, March 23, 2015) The EPA is working closely with the U.S. Virgin Island government to investigate an incident reported to the U.S. Virgin Islands government and EPA on March 20, 2015. On March 20, 2015, paramedics responded to a call that four people in a family staying at the Sirensa Condominium Resort in Cruz Bay, St. John became very ill. Family members were subsequently hospitalized.

The EPA is looking into whether the family was made ill by a pesticide called methyl bromide, which may have been used to fumigate a room at the resort on March 18, 2015. The use of methyl bromide in the U.S. is restricted due to its acute toxicity. Only certified applicators are allowed to use it in certain agricultural settings and is not authorized for use in dwellings. Health effects of acute exposure to methyl bromide are serious and include central nervous system and respiratory system damage.

"Pesticides can be very toxic and it is critically important that they be applied properly and used only as approved by EPA," said Judith A. Enck, EPA Regional Administrator. "Protecting people's health in the U.S. Virgin Islands is of paramount importance. The EPA is actively working to determine how this happened and will make sure steps are taken to prevent this from happening to others at these vacation apartments or elsewhere."

The EPA is continuing to work with the U.S. Virgin Islands government and others to gather information and will ensure that appropriate steps are taken if it determines any environmental regulations or laws were violated.

For more information about EPA's pesticide program and its requirements, visit <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>. For more information on methyl bromide, visit <http://www.epa.gov/region2/methyl-bromide.pdf>.